

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 5, p. 74
Leicester, July 24. 1855.

Dear friend Webb,

Very glad indeed was I to get your note - 3 days since - of July 6th. I took it with me on Sunday to a Meeting in this County which I attended in company with Garrison, and he read it too, with much satisfaction. - I have wanted, a score of times, since we heard of dear Mr. Estlin's death, to write to you; - you knew him so well, you valued him so truly, that you can well understand our feelings, at his departure, and will estimate our loss, in him, just as we do. - And so indeed you do, as your note expresses. It is true, as you say, that in this County G. Thompson's death (had it occurred) would make a wider impression because he has personally been here & become known to very many; but, even in this County, with those who knew both men, not even G. T.'s death w^d be regarded as the loss to the cause, which it now sustains in Mr. Estlin. But he has done his work so well - so judiciously, so carefully, so thoroughly - he has so wisely prepared for his departure - & left his various testimonies so clearly registered, - that, whatever could be done to abate the loss, we shall find to be done. We can always refer to him, as the best

authority, wherever authority is needed;
and his example will cheer & help us
to the last. — Few persons living can ever
have a more genuine sympathy, I believe,
than Mary Estlin will have from those who
are privileged to know her. I do hope her
health may, measurably, come back to
her; & that her days may be long in the
land — useful & honourable days, I am sure,
they will be. — We anticipate, in course
of time, a Memoir of her Father. —

We shall be glad to know, when you
see fit to tell us, what are now the prospects
of the Advocate. Will it go beyond
its present year? and what shall be
done for its support & continuance? This
must, to a large extent, depend on you; for
what with its editing, printing, & distribution,
no small share of your time must be
required by it. It must be, I am sure,
a serious question with you, whether you
can continue to give this amount of time
and effort. —

I have sent to R. F. W. to have Rebecca
Watson's paper changed as you request. —

I have written to S. H. Gay, to look out for
some copies of Jonathan Oldbuck for you.

I remember the thing. I saw a term copy of it
^{many years ago} at the house of a brother-in-law, a lawyer
of very bright & active parts (has been a
member of Congress, where he let Websterism
run away with conscience & previous
convictions - as tens of thousands of others have)
- he was mightily amused with it, and used
to read it over & over, & sit & shake his sides.
- I hope Gay will find it for you, but I
doubt; I have neither seen or heard of it,
for a dozen years at least; but I know
he will gladly get them for you, if possible. -

We are to have a "Liberty Bell" this
year. Anne Weston is to edit it, and
make a vol. of some 200 pages - "little and
good," she says.

I am very sorry to learn what you write
of Pillsbury's health - or, rather, of your
inference about it. I am not surprised,
of course, for I have been very fearful
that he would not be restored; but of
late I have had more hopes. -

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You ask about Phillips's likeness - in the lithograph I sent you. I do not like it, though it is generally liked, as a picture. To me it does not do justice to the breadth of his head, or to the expression of the face. But Garrison thinks well of it - so do our folks generally. I consider T. Parker's perfect, as a likeness, Garrison's I think excellent, leaving little to be bettered. A more recent one has been taken of Phillips, ~~also~~ having however a many faults as the other, certainly; I like it better than the first, in some respects, but it is a dashing, slipshod, wild-looking head.

H. C. Wright is in Ohio now. Our workers are busy, here & there. Phillips is resting a little, after a hard winter & spring's work. Politics are in a strange

chaotic state. The New York Tribune, I have been telling Miss Estlin, is working assiduously & powerfully to unite all the antislavery of the North - oblivious of all past distinctions & divisions - into one great party, to recover Kansas, restore the Missouri Line of 36. 30 (not 33½ as you have it in Advocate) - & then proceed to resist the Slave Power in other respects. But it won't do. Disunion is our Wisdom. Safety, as well as our Duty. Faithfully Yrs. L. May Jr.